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A NEW ROTIFERON.

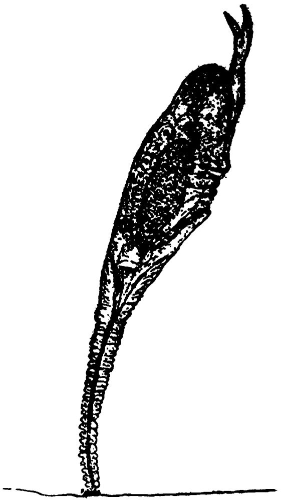
D. S. Kellicott, Ph.D., Columbus, O.

During the past year I have found time to study, somewhat, the Rotifera at Columbus. I have found many species which I have met from time to time in other localities. This was to be expected, for many forms are widespread. Dr. C. T. Hudson has recently pointed out why it is that a particular form may pass from one habitat to a distant one. The ephipial eggs or the adult animals in their impervious cysts may be wafted with dust from point to point, even from one continent to another, where, finally settling in congenial habitats, they flourish and are more widely dispersed from new centers, or having fallen on shipboard, may be carried across oceans, from the northern to the southern hemisphere. It is certainly true that many species of Central Ohio are identical with those of the Niagara and the lakes of Scotland and Switzerland. The distribution of the minute wheel-animalcules is a question of living interest, as truly as is that of the butterflies, fishes, or mammals. The solution of the problem may best be accomplished by the publication of local lists of species, or of those inhabiting distinct bodies of water. With this in view, I may in the future beg the privilege of presenting, for the Society's consideration, a list of the known Rotifera of Central Ohio, together with the account of their haunts and habits.

On this occasion I wish to make known a species that, it seems, has not been hitherto discovered. It occurs attached to *Myriophyllum*, in the Olentangy River, State University grounds, Columbus. The rotiferon belongs to the order Rhizota, family Melicertadæ, and, according to my interpretation of its structure, to the genus *Cephalosiphon.* I propose for it the name *Cephalosiphon furcillatus.*

The corona is circular, with a distinct though narrow dorsal gap ; the somewhat cord-like edge of the coronal disc is slightly in-curved at the sides of the gap ; the dorsal antenna consists of a stout, apparently rigid stem, bearing, distally, two stout, down-curved claws; the latter in some examples are distinctly spined, in others perfectly smooth. In side view there appears to be an articulation between the claws and the basal portion; in fact a slight nodding motion of the claws has been observed. The length of the antennal appendage is equal to the width of the body below the corona, $\frac{1}{820}$ of an inch; the length of the hooks equals that of the base.

The use to which her highness can put this pitchfork is not quite clear. It appears to be ill-adapted for an organ of feeling, and has not been seen to move about exploring the vicinage after the characteristic manner of that organ by *C. limnias.* It simply stands out rigidly, above the apex of the body, like the bayonet of a soldier's musket at "carry arms." In consequence, this weapon precedes the animal as it comes forth from its retreat. When the disc is displayed it reaches fully to the outer border. Does it serve as a sense organ, by giving warning of approaching danger? Does it serve for defence? Or does it serve to rake together the material of the tube? Perhaps all of these; in fact I have seen the animal protrude its body and bend downward to poke up the floccose about its nest.



Cephalosiphon Furcillatus.

The figure was sketched from an example dislodged from its tube.

The tube is composed of a loose, brownish, flocculent matter, mingled with debris.

When fully extended the foot is slender and only slightly wrinkled; when contracted it is as thick as the body, strongly wrinkled. The cylindrical body has several transverse rugæ in the middle of the dorsal area. The stomach is filled with faintly brown matter; jaws normal. The eyes have not been observed. The entire length is $\frac{1}{120}$ of an inch.

The species of the genus ***Cephalosiphon*** occurring in the Olentangy at Columbus are: ***Limnias*** not uncommon, ***candidus*** more abundant, and ***furcillatus***, of which very few specimens have been found.